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IDEA 1051
11 February 1963
Copy 2 of 6

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Division, OSA

SUBJECT : System [ ] Failure Reported [ ] 0739 25X1A

1. In view of recent speculation concerning the operation 25X1D of the System [ ] in Article 342 at [ ] it may be 25X1A appropriate to document a "best guess" analysis of the recent system malfunction reported in [ ] 0739. 25X1A

2. Possibly, the key to the source of malfunction is the fact that the system, itself, was found to be extremely wet from condensation during the post-flight check. It is not normal for a "cold soak" to leave [ ] wet. This 25X1A condensation was probably caused because the Q-bay heater was not in use during that particular flight. (This was a normal situation. The Q-bay heater is normally used only when equipment is in the Q-bay. On this particular flight there was no equipment in the Q-bay.) This condensation was further aggravated by the fact that the Article was taken from 40 M feet down to 20 M feet, and then back up to altitude prior to turning [ ] 25X1A [ ] "on." Most likely theory is that the moisture in the system shorted out the high-voltage supply transistors, causing complete failure of the system. 25X1A

3. If there is a moral, or lesson, to be learned in this, it may be that normal operation of the system should preclude its being used during test missions unless the Q-bay heater is "on."

4. Once again, the above is only a "best guess," and there seems to be no way to prove or disprove this without exposing the unit to the same conditions. It is felt, however, that the recommendation included in paragraph 3 is generally sound, and should be considered for inclusion in the standard operating instructions for the [ ] 25X1D

NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED
OUTSIDE OSA-DD/R

Signed
[ ] 25X1A
Chief, Communications Staff,
OSA-DD/R

Distribution:
Original and 1 - Addressee
#3 - [illegible]
#4 - COMMO 0-2
OSA/COMMO/[ ]/pjb
#5 - COMMO Chrono
#6 - RB/OSA 25X1A

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